



# DLNSEO DISPATCH... THIS MONTH IN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

MAY 2013

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[THEY ARE LISTENING](#)

2

[MARINE CORPS HOLDS SECURITY COOPERATION PLANNER'S COURSE](#)

2

[INDIANA UNIVERSITY AWARDED FEDERAL GRANTS TO EXPAND MILITARY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE](#)

3

[CSULB RECEIVES GRANT AS A LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER](#)

3

[PROJECT GO & LTC ANNUAL PROJECT DIRECTORS MEETING](#)

4

## FOREIGN AREA MARINES PAVE WAY FOR MISSION SUCCESS

*(Military.com)...Sgt. Priscilla Sneden*

The Foreign Area Officer program has been in place since 1975, but it wasn't until 2011 that the program was extended to include staff noncommissioned officers.

Today, the renamed International Affairs Officer Program is an umbrella program that governs the foreign area officer and the regional affairs officer designations. It maintains a pool of well-trained and experienced international specialists who advise in political-military affairs. The Foreign Area SNCO program's mission is to identify, select and educate a corps of international affairs Marines for duty with interagency organizations, to improve operations and security assistance efforts with language skills, regional expertise and culture capability.

In 2010, the commandant approved the initiative to increase the capacity of the FAO-RAO population by educating and identifying a cadre of language, regional expertise and culture professionals among the SNCO corps.

FASs maintain SNCO responsibilities and apply LREC skills primarily at the tactical level. FAOs apply LREC skills where they are primarily assigned, in operational and strategic-level staff billets. "The Marine Corps operates in environments, which require understanding of the complex human terrain, cultural norms and



language to facilitate interaction with foreign populations at all levels," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Ramon Reyes, FAS/RAS program manager. The Corps is the first service to create a FAS program and employ SNCOs with these foreign area skills; however the Army has recently begun sending Army SNCOs to the joint FAO basic course in Monterey, Calif.

The International Affairs Branch began a 27-month beta test of the program in February 2012, with nine SNCOs.

FAS Marines complete extensive education and training events; they attend Naval Postgraduate School for six months, immersion language training for three months, culture/language study abroad, a two-week information operations capability course, an Intensive Regional Area

Studies course and a weeklong security cooperation planners course. "Once training is complete, the Marines are sent on a utilization tour to units to employ their language, regional expertise and culture skills," said Reyes. "Five of the Marines have completed training and are currently at their respective assignments." Gunnery Sgt. Richard Plummer recently completed the first utilization tour. "I have always been fascinated with the various cultures and languages of the world," said Plummer. "I saw this as a unique opportunity. "I've learned the seriousness of relationships between people, how building partnerships are more than just a handshake. This process becomes a relationship with very serious duties and responsibilities."

## THEY ARE LISTENING

*(Armed With Science)...Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney*

Linguists from the 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, are trained in the art of employing electronic attack for the purpose of denying, degrading and disrupting enemy communications from aboard the EC-130 Compass Call.

"We're a precision electronic attack platform," said Tech. Sgt. Dallas Allen, a cryptologic language analyst with the 41st EECS. "We can go out and ... stop (the enemy) from communicating with each other." When on a mission, the airmen of the Compass Call employ precision electronic attack capabilities in support of U.S. and coalition tactical air, surface and special operations forces.

"You really have to have a lot of confidence in yourself when it comes to identifying certain kinds of communication," Allen said.

"Sometimes you'll be listening and think 'did I just hear him say that, or did I expect him to say that?'"

The linguists' confidence comes from the amount of practice they go through while at home station, Allen said.

"We have to spend hours in the listening lab studying our language," he said. "We go to simulations and

that's where we're able to hone our skills. We listen to known communications so we can practice identifying them."

The linguist career field is relatively small and the group of linguists who fly, even smaller. Allen said there are probably less than 1,000.

Given the size of the career field, the linguists have shorter deployments than other airmen. However, their time spent at home is shorter as well, said.

"It's a leapfrog effect," said. "We're constantly out here."

The missions can last anywhere from two to 15 hours, based on the need of troops on the ground.

"Some nights we might not have anything, other nights we may be extremely busy," Allen said. "When we get feedback from (the ground troops) ... it makes you feel like

we're really coming together as a group."



Cabrillo Tech. Sgt. Justin Longway checks a patch panel aboard an EC-130 Compass Call at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The 41st EECS flies nightly missions in support of troops on the ground.

## MARINE CORPS HOLDS SECURITY COOPERATION PLANNER'S COURSE

*(dvids)*

Marine Corps Maj. Ryan Crais, a security cooperation advisor with Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group (MCSCG), addresses Foreign Area Officers (FAO) and Regional Area Officers (RAO) at a MCSCG-led course for future Security cooperation planners during Naval Postgraduate School Enrichment Week in Monterey, Calif., March 25-28. Crais is an NPS graduate and a South Asia FAO. "What we're teaching them are the

fundamentals of security cooperation, particularly the legal authorities and the funding sources available to conduct exercises, events and programs with foreign security forces," said MCSCG representative, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Robert Hunter. "We teach them how to prioritize and assess foreign forces and how to plan engagements to build their capabilities in support of U.S. interests."

MCSCG representatives offer the

course at NPS due to the high number of FAO and RAO representatives in the Monterey area.

"We come to NPS once a year because of the FAO and RAO training population ... Capturing them in an early stage of development as FAOs and RAOs means that when they're employed as planners, they'll be prepared," said Hunter.

MCSCG executes security cooperation programs as well as training, planning, and other activities to support Marine Core security cooperation efforts.

## INDIANA UNIVERSITY AWARDED FEDERAL GRANTS TO EXPAND MILITARY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

*(Indiana University)*

Indiana University has been awarded two federal grants totaling more than \$600,000 to continue expanding access to training in critical languages and cultures for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and active duty military personnel through the Summer Language Workshop. The grants, from the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Language and National Security Education Office, provide \$249,696 to support Project GO scholarships for ROTC students studying domestically at the Summer Language Workshop and in programs abroad, and \$360,731 to support a pilot Language Training Center for high-proficiency Arabic- and Russian-speaking foreign area officers, linguists and intelligence analysts. The grants were awarded to the Summer Language Workshop, part of the School of Global and International Studies at IU Bloomington. "These grants enable the School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University to focus our strong institutional expertise in the teaching of critical languages on the training of junior and career military personnel," said Maria Bucur-Deckard, associate dean for international programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. "We are delighted that the school's educational resources in area studies

and languages will be of service to the federal government and look forward to further opportunities for collaboration."

This is the sixth year IU has received funding for the competitive Project GO grant program, and the first year for the Language Training Center grant program. IU is one of a handful of Language Training Center sites nationwide. Both grants are administered by the Institute of International Education.

### Project GO

Funding for Project GO will support at least 23 domestic scholarships for students to study at the Summer Language Workshop. Domestic scholarships of up to \$6,500 are offered at various proficiency levels in Arabic, Dari, Kazakh, Persian, Russian, Turkish, Tatar, Uyghur and Uzbek. Scholarships include tuition and fees, housing and a modest stipend.

At least 20 study-abroad scholarships are available for IU ROTC students and Summer Language Workshop Project GO alumni. These scholarships cover eight weeks of immersive, overseas language and culture training and are valued at up to \$10,000.

### Language Training Center

Up to 30 domestic scholarships in Arabic and Russian are available for



Indiana University Limestone Crest

foreign area officers, linguists and intelligence analysts. This program is being offered to personnel from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines in collaboration with the Defense Language and National Security Education Office.

The development of a nationwide pilot language sustainment program allows ROTC and military students to continue developing language proficiency after completing Project GO and Language Training Center programs. Participants will have access to customized language modules, coaching and a variety of materials offered in partnership with the Naval Postgraduate School FAOWeb Program. IU's Center for Language Technology and Instructional Enrichment will provide technical and consultative support.

## CSULB RECEIVES GRANT AS A LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER

*(CSULB)*

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) recently received a one-year, \$271,316 grant from the Defense Language National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) to support participation in a Language Training Center (LTC) to help meet the language and cultural needs of California's military units. The DLNSEO provides funding so the California Army National Guard and other military units can receive university-based hybrid language and

culture coursework. Endorsed last year by CSULB President F. King Alexander and Maj. Gen. Scott Johnson, the 2012-13 program is offering three 15-day intensive language courses in Arabic, Farsi and Chinese for National Guard linguists.

O'Rourke believes the LTC program has several benefits. "First and foremost, the CSU is playing an active role in educating our service members about the language and culture of

geostrategic countries," he noted. "At the same time, we in higher education are being funded for programs directed at global education and globalization." The California Army National Guard has been extremely supportive of the program. "With waning resources and fast-paced commitments, it's difficult to plan and implement new programs in both the Guard and the CSU," O'Rourke stated, "By partnering on this initiative, we leverage the talent of the CSU while providing a needed service to the military."

## PROJECT GLOBAL OFFICER & LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER ANNUAL PROJECT DIRECTORS MEETING

The Project Global Officer (GO) and Language Training Center (LTC) Program Annual Project Directors Meeting was held on April 16-17, 2013 and hosted by Texas A&M University (TAMU) in College Station, Texas. Approximately 70 program directors, coordinators, and ROTC detachment representatives from 27 institutions of higher education participated in the meeting. Brigadier General (Retired) Joe Ramirez, Commandant of the Corps of Cadets at TAMU, was the featured speaker and addressed the topic on “Internationalizing the Corps at Senior Military Colleges (SMC).” The Commandant discussed the vital importance of developing language skills for officers throughout the Services based on his experience. Cadets from the TAMU Corps also shared their experiences on Project GO and cultural excursion tours to the Arab World, Asia and Russia and their plans for the future. All five Project GO SMCs – Norwich University, TAMU, The Citadel, University of North Georgia, and Virginia Tech presented on what it means to be an SMC. Project GO promotes critical language education, study abroad,

and intercultural dialogue opportunities among Reserve Officer Training Corps students to develop future military officers with the cross-cultural communication skills required for effective leadership in the 21st century. The Project GO meeting sessions focused on maximizing the results of the introductory and study abroad programs through curriculum and program design. There are currently 25 Project GO institutions for Academic Year 2012-2013 serving approximately 650 ROTC participants per year. One of the primary objectives of all Project GO participants is to achieve a proficiency goal of Interagency Language Roundtable Level 1 across multiple modalities. The LTC program directors each presented a briefing about their respective project, and shared materials they had developed and experiences they had working with DoD partners. The LTC Program is a DoD-funded initiative established in September 2011 to increase DoD’s training capacity in critical and strategic languages and regional area studies for DoD personnel. There are currently eight LTCs for

Academic Year 2012-2013 and a new, open competition is underway to select grant recipients for Academic Year 2013-2014. Each center has an institutional capacity to provide customized training to meet the specific needs of various DoD entities. Training is delivered primarily through non-traditional delivery methods such as intensive immersion instruction and online modules. A two-day American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Familiarization and Implication Workshop was held prior to the annual meeting for Project GO and LTC instructors to introduce them to the techniques of administering and rating the OPI at the novice and intermediate levels. Approximately 25 instructors attended the two-day workshop. A four-day ACTFL OPI Assessment Workshop for Arabic was held after the meeting to introduce instructors to the techniques of administering and rating the OPI across all proficiency levels. The workshops were well-received, especially from Project GO instructors who are about to start their summer classes.

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### CALENDAR

Defense Language Action Panel	May 14
Defense Language Steering Committee	May 23



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